UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

DEC 8 2010

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups:

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the following action.

TITLE: Environmental Assessment for the Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Quota Specifications for 2011, 2012, and 2013, RIN 0648-XY27

LOCATION: Exclusive Economic Zone of the Eastern United States

SUMMARY: The final specifications implement annual quotas of 3.4 million bushels for Atlantic surfclams, 5.333 million bushels for ocean quahogs, and 100,000 Maine bushels for Maine mahogany quahogs for the 2011-2013 fishing years. These quota levels maintain the status quo from the 2010 fishing year, consistent with the provisions of the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
55 Great Republic Way
Gloucester, MA 01930
(978) 281-9343

The environmental review process led us to conclude that this action will not have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement was not prepared. A copy of the finding of no significant impact (FONSI), including the environmental assessment, is enclosed for your information.

Although NOAA is not soliciting comments on this completed EA/FONSI we will consider any comments submitted that would assist us in preparing future NEPA documents. Please submit any written comments to the Responsible Official named above.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Doremus, Ph.D.
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

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